

An Overlooked Specimen of Bachman's Warbler.—Some time since, while working on the fine old Lafresnaye Collection in the Boston Society of Natural History I unearthed an interesting and valuable specimen, nothing less in fact than a Bachman's Warbler (*Helminthophila bachmani*). This bird agrees closely with Audubon's figure and description of the adult female, but differs from a female in Mr. Cory's collection by having a well-marked patch of black on the jugulum, and traces of a dark band across the fore part of the crown. The body plumage is fresh and perfect, but shows no indication of a recent moult; the primaries are somewhat faded; the tail-feathers decidedly faded and worn.

The label bore the inscription, "No. 4079, *Dendroica virens*, Gmel., N. America." This proved to be a correct transcript of the entry under the corresponding number in the fac-simile Lafresnaye Catalogue belonging to the Society, save that in the latter "N. America" is written *in pencil*. Going still farther back to the scrap-book where the original Lafresnaye labels are preserved, each numbered in red ink to correspond with the catalogue just mentioned, I found "4079" on a small slip of paper, yellow with age, the writing so faded that only "Sylvicola —" can be certainly deciphered. The dash is followed by a mark resembling the sign ♀ (was this sign used in ornithology in Lafresnaye's time?) but probably intended for a ? There is also something that looks like "orig ne?"

The plain inference from these data is that the label last described was the original one belonging to this specimen, and that the person who wrote it (whether Lafresnaye or some correspondent from whom he may have had the skin) was unable to identify the bird. It is equally obvious that the locality entered in pencil in our copy of the Lafresnaye Catalogue was added, doubtless inferentially, after the specimen came into the possession of the Society. It follows that the origin of the bird is unknown. Can it be the female figured in Audubon's plate? If I am not mistaken, the latter has been lost sight of.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Remarks on Four Examples of the Yellow-throated Warbler from Chester County, S. C.—A series of four specimens, taken during September, 1886, display characters so different from those commonly ascribed to the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) of the Atlantic States as to merit special notice. The variations in each are as follows:—

1. ♀. Bill (from nostril), 9.2 mm.; superciliary stripe without yellow; yellow of chin and maxillæ interrupted anteriorly by white.
2. ♂. Bill (from nostril), 10 mm.; superciliary stripe, above the lores, very faintly tinged with yellow for about 4 mm.; thence immaculate to the base of the upper mandible; chin and maxillæ as in the preceding.
3. ♀. Bill (from nostril) 9.5 mm.; superciliary stripe, anterior to eye, strongly tinged with yellow for about 4 mm.; otherwise similar to the foregoing.
4. Essentially like 3, but with tinge of yellow in superciliary more pronounced.

In the flesh the yellow in the eye-stripe of 3 and 4 appeared sufficiently intense to warrant their being assigned to *dominica*; but as a skin, the yellow in 3 is less prominent, and it might be referred without violence to *albilora*. Unless the white adjoining the base of the lower mandible be considered diagnostic, the determination of such intermediates seems to be a matter of considerable uncertainty, depending on doubtful estimates as to quantity and intensity of the yellow in the white line above the eye.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

Discovery of the Nest and Eggs of the Western Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*).—During the past season (1886) Mr. C. A. Allen had the good fortune to find two nests of *Dendroica occidentalis* in Blue Cañon, California. The first contained two eggs on June 4. It was left for a full set, but on visiting it three days later, Mr. Allen found it in a dilapidated condition, the eggs broken, and their yolks smeared over the lining, evidently the work of squirrels. Of the eggs, Mr. Allen writes: "I cannot give you an exact description of these eggs, but in size and appearance they resembled those of *D. aestiva*, only they were more heavily marked on their entire surface. I am very sorry now that I did not take them, but I wanted the full set, which, I think, would not have exceeded three, as I found a nest seven or eight years ago with three young, and another with the same number while returning from my second visit to the nest with eggs. All three nests were similarly placed:—in 'pitch pines,' from twenty-five to forty feet above the ground, on thick, scraggy limbs, where they were so well concealed that it would have been impossible to find them except by watching the birds, as was done in each instance. The female of the nest that was destroyed was seen digging up fine roots from a logging road morning after morning, but I could never follow her to the nest, which I finally found by accident; happening to shoot a Douglass's squirrel in the adjoining tree, the report of the gun started her out."

The nest with young, taken June 7, 1886, is now before me. It is composed of the fibrous stalks of herbaceous plants, fine dead twigs, lichens (*Evernia vulpina*), and a little cotton twine, and is lined with the soft inner bark of some coniferous tree and fine long hairs, apparently from the tail of a squirrel. The bright, yellow *Evernia*, sprinkled rather plentifully about the rim, gives a touch of color to the otherwise cold, gray tone of the exterior and contrasts agreeably with the warm, reddish-brown lining. Although the materials are coarse and wadded, rather than woven, together, the general effect of this nest is neat and tasteful. It does not resemble any other Warbler's nest that I have seen, but rather recalls the nest of some Fringilline bird, being perhaps most like that of the Lark Finch. It measures externally 4.50 inches in width by 2 inches in depth. The cavity is 1.25 inches deep by 2.50 inches wide at the top. The walls at the rim average nearly an inch in thickness.

The three young taken from this nest, together with both their parents, were also sent me by Mr. Allen. The young are about two-thirds grown